

Allied Healthcare Workforce in Missouri

An Overview of Allied Health Careers

October 2007

Drivers in the Healthcare Sector

Allied Healthcare careers have driven growth in the overall healthcare industry. From 2000 to 2004:

- Nearly 24 percent of total job growth in the health care sector was due to growth of allied health jobs.
- More than 4,400 net jobs were created during that period in allied healthcare careers.

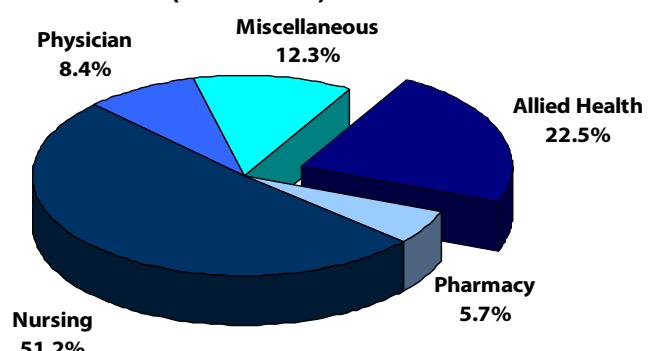
Economic Shift

Like the U.S., Missouri is shifting from a goods-producing to a service-providing economy. This trend is evident when comparing historical industry employment in Manufacturing versus Health Care and Social Assistance.

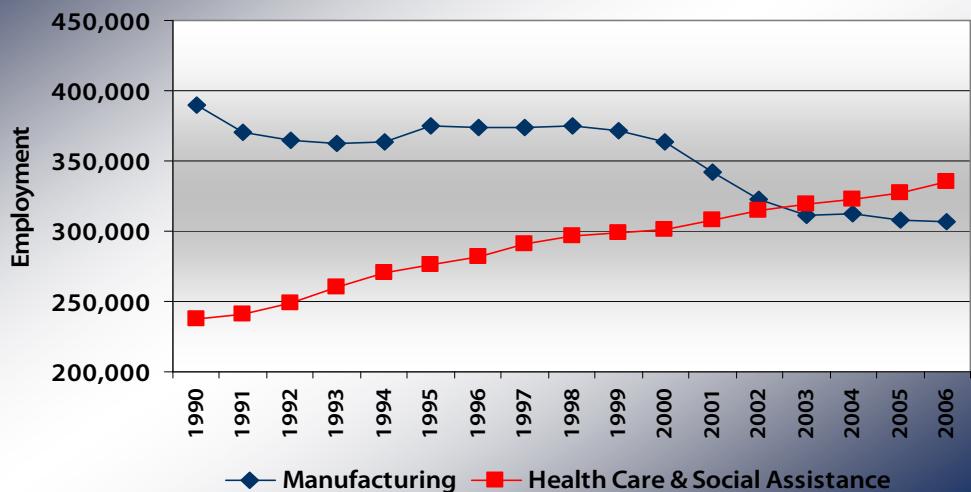
In 1990, Manufacturing accounted for nearly 17 percent of jobs statewide with Healthcare/Social Assistance accounting for only 10 percent of jobs. Since then, Health Care/Social Assistance added over 97,000 jobs to account for over 12 percent of statewide employment in 2004. During that same time period, Manufacturing lost more than 83,000 jobs and now accounts for just over 11 percent of statewide employment.

Healthcare Occupations in Missouri

(Nov. 2004)



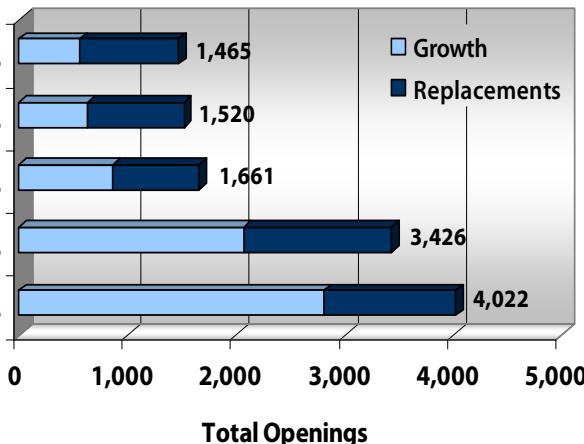
Manufacturing and Healthcare & Social Assistance Employment



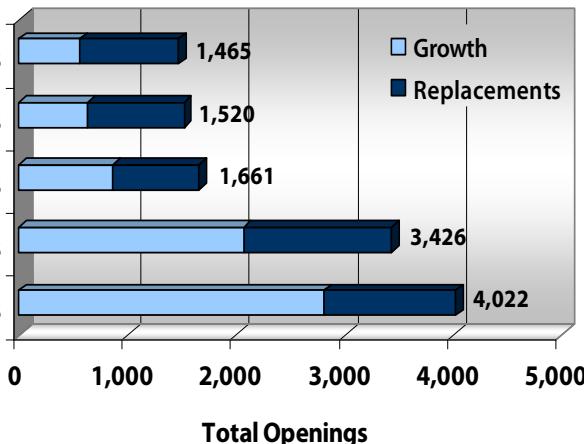
Source: MERIC, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 1990-2006, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Projected Openings for Selected Allied Health Occupations in Missouri, 2004-14

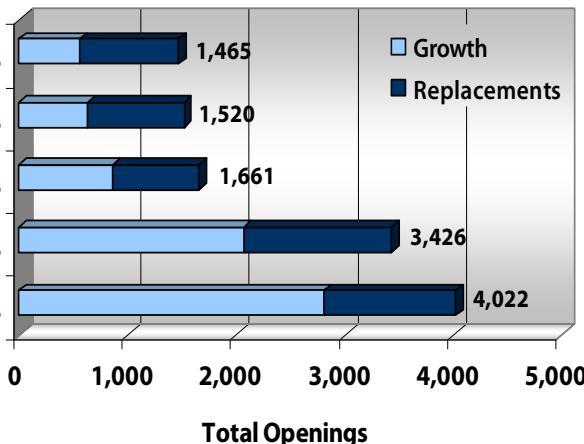
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists



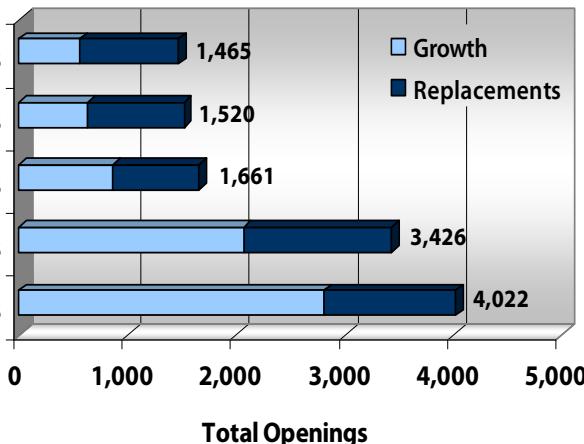
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technicians



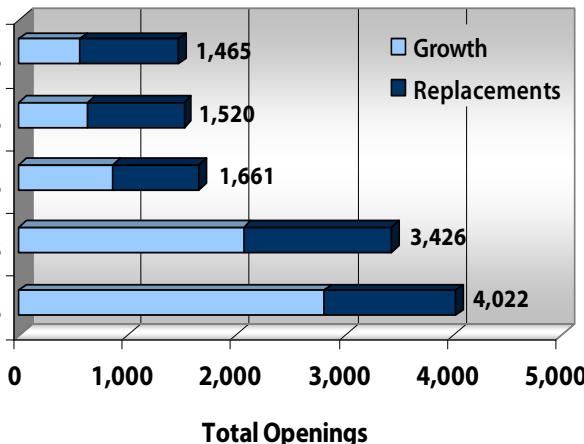
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians



Dental Assistants



Medical Assistants



Outlook for Allied Health Careers

From 2004-2014, Allied Health careers are projected to add over 12,000 jobs due to growth – an increase of over 23 percent during the period.

Total job openings over the ten-year period are a combination of both growth and replacements. Growth openings are new jobs that are added to the economy. Replacement openings are vacancies created by worker mobility or retirements – not new jobs. Allied Health occupations are projected to have 12,305 openings due to growth and 10,091 due to replacements.

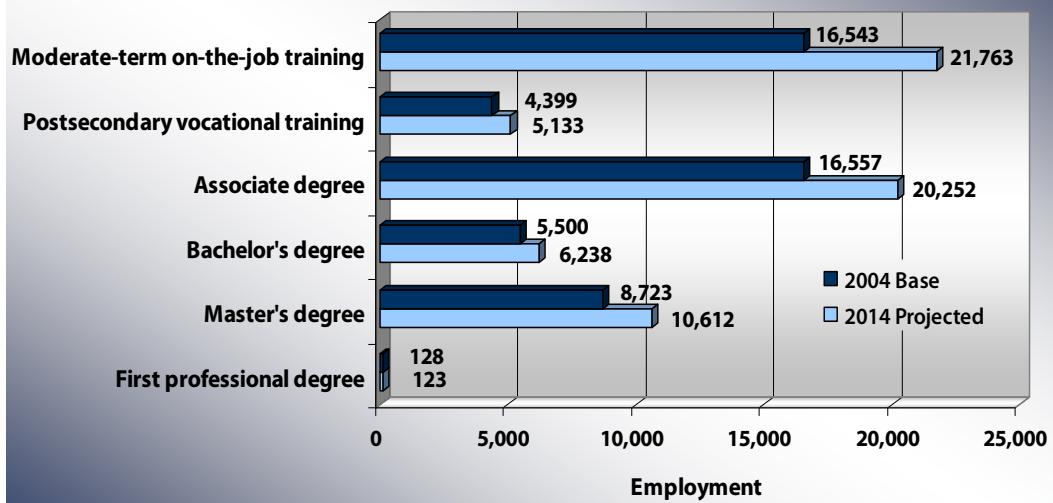
Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2004-2014, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Future for Allied Health Training

In 2014, nearly 34 percent of workers in Allied Health careers will be employed in occupations that typically require moderate-term (less than 12 months) on-the-job training.

Expected job openings in Allied Health will, however, place demands on higher education over the next ten years. In 2014, 26 percent of Allied Health workers will need skills typically obtained through a bachelor's degree or higher.

Future Levels of Educational Attainment for Allied Health Careers



Source: MERIC, Employment Projections, 2004-2014, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Wage Rates for Top Employing Allied Health Occupations

| Occupation | 2004 Employment | Hourly Wage | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Average | 25th Percentile | 75th Percentile |
| Medical Assistants | 6,540 | \$11.20 | \$9.44 | \$12.88 |
| Dental Assistants | 4,853 | \$12.73 | \$10.18 | \$13.58 |
| Psychiatric Technicians | 4,561 | \$9.51 | \$8.06 | \$10.59 |
| Radiologic Technologists and Technicians | 4,268 | \$25.09 | \$16.36 | \$24.06 |
| Physical Therapists | 3,654 | \$25.58 | \$21.66 | \$30.25 |
| Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists | 3,373 | \$21.34 | \$18.71 | \$24.50 |
| Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians | 3,286 | \$13.44 | \$10.22 | \$16.07 |

Two of the fastest growing occupations in the Allied Health sector are Radiologic Technologists and Technicians (20% growth) and Physical Therapists (25% growth).

These two occupations pay above average wages of \$25.09 and \$25.58 an hour, respectively.

Training Providers for Allied Health Careers

In Missouri, there are 89 training providers/educational institutions that offer Allied Health Career training programs.

Almost one-third of the Allied Health Career training providers in the state (27) are located in the two major metropolitan areas of Kansas City and St. Louis.

However, there is ample access to other Allied Health training providers across Missouri including smaller metropolitan areas such as Jefferson City, Rolla, and Cape Girardeau.

For a complete listing of Allied Health occupations, visit the MERIC website at:
http://www.missourieconomy.org/occupations/health_clusters.htm

